

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1788

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

CONFIDENTIAL OTTAWA 2291

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CI, CA

SUBJECT: REACTION TO CHILEAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: OTTAWA 2266

1. REACTION TO CHILEAN COUP CONTINUES TO BE RELATIVELY MILD IN CANADA. SMALL GROUP DEMONSTRATED IN FRONT OF PARLIAMENT SEPT 20 AND VARIOUS "DISCUSSION SESSIONS" SPONSORED BY RADICAL GROUPS ARE PLANNED ON LOCAL CAMPUSES OVER NEXT WEEK. DEMONSTRATORS IN FRONT OF PARLIAMENT PASSED OUT LITERATURE EXPRESSING "PROFOUND INDIGNATION OVER THE BLOODY COUP OF SEPT. 11, 1973" AND EXPRESSING HOPE THAT GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TAKE ACTION IN UN TO BRING ABOUT STUDY OF "VIOLATIONS AGAINST UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS." LITERATURE WAS SIGNED "CHILEAN STUDENTS RESIDING IN CANADA" BUT CHILE EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY RAUL SCHMIDT, WHO IS CURRENTLY ACTING AS CHARGE, SAID HE SEARCHED IN VAIN FOR SPANISH-SPEAKING MEMBER OF GROUP. ONE DISCUSSION GROUP PLANNED AT OTTAWA UNIVERSITY FOR SEPTEMBER 22 IS BEING ORGANIZED BY TRADITIONAL RADICAL ELEMENTS WHO IN PAST HAVE LED ANTI-VIETNAM DEMONSTRATIONS. ASIDE FROM THESE RELATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

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MINOR EVENTS, SITUATION IN CHILE IS NOW RECEIVING ONLY

ROUTINE MEDIA COVERAGE, MOSTLY CENTERING ON DRAMATIC ASPECTS OF ALLENDE DEATH.

2. EMBOFF LUNCHEON WITH SCHMIDT SEPTEMBER 21. SCHMIDT SAID EMBASSY HAS GOOD COMMUNICATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT IN SANTIAGO AND HAS RECEIVED GUIDANCE RESULTING IN COMMUNIQUE OUTLINED RETEL. SCHMIDT HAS TAKEN ACTIVE ROLE IN SEEKING CANADIAN RECOGNITION FOR NEW CHILEAN GOVERNMENT. SCHMIDT ELABORATED ON GREAT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BROUGHT ABOUT BY ALLENDE ADMINISTRATION AND EXPRESSED GREAT OPTIMISM THAT COUP WOULD BRING ABOUT RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF ORDER AND TRUE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEMS IN CHILE. SCHMIDT DESCRIBED CHILEAN MILITARY ACTION AS A MATTER OF ABSOLUTE NECESSITY AND ALLUDED TO INFORMATION HE HAD TO THE EFFECT THAT A MARXIST COUP AGAINST ALLENDE WOULD HAVE BEEN FORTHCOMING WITHIN TWO WEEKS HAD MILITARY NOT ACTED AT THIS TIME. SCHMIDT SAID HE HAD INFORMATION THAT DOCUMENTS DESCRIBING PROPOSED COUP WERE FOUND AFTER SEPT 11 IN SAFE OF CHILEAN UNDERSECRETARY OF INTERIOR. SCHMIDT EXPRESSED VIEW THAT PRESS AND CHILEANS WERE UNAWARE OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH ALLENDE GOVERNMENT HAD ESTABLISHED COOPERATIVE LINKS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT CHILE WAS BEING USED AS A CENTER FOR SUBVERSION IN SOUTH AMERICA BY MARXIST ELEMENTS.

3. SCHMIDT SAID THAT CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TO CANADA, LUCIO PARADA, HAD CLOSE PERSONAL LINKS TO ALLENDE AND WAS INDEOLOGICALLY COMMITTED TO THE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT. ACCORDINGLY, SCHMIDT SAID PARADA WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE REMAINED IN HIS POSITION EVEN IF JUNTA HAD NOT PICKED UP HIS RESIGNATION. SCHMIDT SAID THAT DESPITE PARADA'S CLOSE LINKS TO ALLENDE, PARADA PLANS TO RETURN TO CHILE FROM OTTAWA IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. SCHMIDT ANTICIPATED THAT IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE ELECTIONS TAKE PLACE IN CHILE AND EXPRESSED PERSONAL HOPE THAT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ORDER CAN BE RESTORED BEFORE DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES ARE REINSTATED. SCHMIDT SAID HE HAD SPOKEN TO HIS FAMILY IN SANTIAGO BY TELEPHONE SEPT. 19 AND THAT HIS FAMILY HAD TOLD HIM THAT MILITARY JUNTA IS CONFIDENTIAL

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BEING GREETED WITH "GREAT JUBILATION" BY CHILEAN PEOPLE.

SCHMIDT

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